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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 412 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY GALLOWAY, SCHLOSSBERG, NEILSON, MADDEN, HILL-  
EVANS, SANCHEZ, FLEMING AND OTTEN, MARCH 14, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 14, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in organization and  
3 jurisdiction of courts of common pleas, further providing for  
4 problem-solving courts; and, in magisterial district judges,  
5 further providing for jurisdiction and venue.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 916(a) and (b)(1) of Title 42 of the  
9 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

10 § 916. Problem-solving courts.

11 (a) Establishment.--

12 (1) The court of common pleas of a judicial district and  
13 the Municipal Court of Philadelphia may establish, from  
14 available funds, one or more problem-solving courts which  
15 have specialized jurisdiction, including, but not limited to,  
16 veterans courts, drug courts, mental health courts and  
17 driving under the influence courts, whereby defendants are  
18 admitted to a court-supervised individualized treatment  
19 program. The court may adopt local rules for the

1 administration of problem-solving courts and their related  
2 treatment services. The local rules may not be inconsistent  
3 with this section or any rules established by the Supreme  
4 Court.

5 (2) A magisterial district judge shall have concurrent  
6 jurisdiction with a drug court established under paragraph  
7 (1) and may establish a drug court in accordance with  
8 paragraph (1). A magisterial district judge who administers  
9 or establishes a drug court shall adopt the local rules for  
10 the administration of a drug court and related treatment  
11 services adopted under paragraph (1).

12 (b) Statewide problem-solving courts coordinator.--To the  
13 extent that funds are available, the Supreme Court may appoint a  
14 Statewide problem-solving courts coordinator. The coordinator  
15 may:

16 (1) Encourage and assist in the establishment of  
17 problem-solving courts in each judicial district and drug  
18 courts in magisterial districts.

19 \* \* \*

20 Section 2. Section 1515(a) of Title 42 is amended by adding  
21 a paragraph to read:

22 § 1515. Jurisdiction and venue.

23 (a) Jurisdiction.--Except as otherwise prescribed by general  
24 rule adopted pursuant to section 503 (relating to reassignment  
25 of matters), magisterial district judges shall, under procedures  
26 prescribed by general rule, have jurisdiction of all of the  
27 following matters:

28 \* \* \*

29 (6.2) Drug courts in accordance with section 916  
30 (relating to problem-solving courts).

1           \* \* \*

2       Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.